

In the United States Court of Federal Claims
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS
No. 16-0225V
(not to be published)

ELIZABETH SCHANDEL,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: December 30, 2019

Special Processing Unit (SPU);
Attorney's Fees and Costs

Bruce William Slane, Law Office of Bruce W. Slane, P.C., White Plains, NY, for Petitioner.

Amy Paula Kokot, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION ON ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS¹

On February 16, 2016,² Elizabeth Schandel ("Petitioner") filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*,³ (the "Vaccine Act" or "Program") "for injuries, including a torn rotator cuff in her right shoulder, resulting from adverse effects of a trivalent influenza vaccination received on October 20, 2011." (Petition at 1). On July 8, 2019, a decision was issued

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

² Because the petition in this case was filed within one year of the dismissal of petitioner's prior civil action, its filing date for statute of limitations purposes is deemed to be the date the civil action was filed, July 25, 2013. See Civil Action Documentation (ECF No. 8); 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-11(a)(2)(B) (2012) (rule regarding petition filing date when case involves a prior civil action). Thus, even though filed approximately four years and four months after vaccination, petitioner's petition is timely filed.

³ National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all "§" references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa.

by then-Chief Special Master Dorsey awarding compensation to Petitioner in the amount of \$85,920.03. (ECF No. 89).

Petitioner has now filed a motion for attorney's fees and costs, dated November 21, 2019, (ECF No. 93) requesting a total award of \$30,039.78 (representing \$29,504.50 in fees and \$535.28 in costs). In accordance with General Order #9 Petitioner filed a signed statement indicating that she incurred no out-of-pocket expenses. (*Id.* @ 2). Respondent reacted to the motion on December 5, 2019 indicating that he is satisfied that the statutory requirements for an award of attorney's fees and costs are met in this case and defers to the Court's discretion to determine the amount to be awarded. (ECF No. 96). Petitioner did not file a reply thereafter.

I have reviewed the billing records submitted with Petitioner's request. In my experience, the request appears reasonable, and I find no cause to reduce the requested hours or rates.

The Vaccine Act permits an award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs. § 15(e). Accordingly, I hereby GRANT Petitioner's Motion for attorney's fees and costs. I award a total of **\$30,039.78** (representing \$29,504.50 in attorney's fees and \$535.28 in costs) as a lump sum in the form of a check jointly payable to Petitioner and Petitioner's counsel. In the absence of a timely-filed motion for review (see Appendix B to the Rules of the Court), the Clerk shall enter judgment in accordance with this decision.⁴

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Brian H. Corcoran
Brian H. Corcoran
Chief Special Master

⁴ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), the parties may expedite entry of judgment by filing a joint notice renouncing their right to seek review.